

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: S&C-04-03

DATE: October 9, 2003

TO: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)
State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Acting Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Input Instructions for Comparative Surveys for FY 2004 Policy and Database Clarification

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the input and collection of data in the Federal Monitoring Survey (FMS) Access database for Comparative Surveys.

Questions have arisen about the correct manner in which to complete a particular data field within the form CMS-2567 section of the Comparative Survey Forms for Nursing Homes. Specifically, the question in the data box that states, "Based on the evidence available to the State Agency (SA), should the SA have cited this Tag?" pertains only to deficiencies that the Regional Office cited, but the SA did not.

For questions concerning this policy, please contact Dawn Hawkins Johnson at (410) 786-1117 or via email at dhawkinsjohnson@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: This clarification is effective immediately

Training: The information contained in this announcement should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the state/RO training coordinator.

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton